

19 June 1972

READING 12

TWO IMPORTANT TOPICS

As a suggestion for using the book *A Lasting Freedom* for a foundation on which to build our house for the future, I would like you to consider it not only as a means of introducing to our friends the Meditation and True Knowledge, but also for our own study. As I shall be very busy on other things to the end of this term, can I leave it to you to go ahead on these lines?

There are two important subjects, the study of which could transform our own point of view, so that much could come out of our weekly meetings. The first is the division of the outer and inner worlds into three levels – physical, subtle and causal; the second is Mr. Ouspensky's idea of the fifth dimension – the eternal repetition of cycles.

PART 1. PHYSICAL, SUBTLE AND CAUSAL LEVELS

Looking in the Index you will find, under 'levels,' three references – to pages 36, 73 and 76.

a) Page 36 is part of the answer to a very good question asked at the second lecture ('Know Yourself') by a young married woman in these words:

Q. When you speak of *knowing yourself*, do you mean the Universal Self or a very personal, individual self, your own virtues and faults?

Having answered that I meant *both* of these, the illustration of looking in the mirror was used in the manner suggested by His Holiness. Would you read from page 35, 'Who in fact *are* you?...' to page 36, '... you do understand where the answer to your question could lie?'

[Would you please discuss that, in terms of your own examples and descriptions.]

b) Pages 73 and 76. This begins with part of a note on the story of a 'countryman at the cinema' (page 21) told near the end of the first lecture ('Glimpses of Truth'). You might care to read from the bottom of page 20, 'I just have to tell you one last story before we go...' to page 21, '... remains always the same.' Then read note 22, '*Passing Show*' (pages 72 and 73); note 28, '*Physical, Subtle and Causal Levels*' and note 29, 'Soul' (pages 76 and 77).

Having taken your time over all this, can you come up with a new and original line *from your own experience* which would take this important idea further and make it more practical?

PART 2. RECURRENCE OF CYCLES

Suggested reading from page 7, 'To understand the perennial need...' to page 8, '... to find an effective way of spiritual development compatible with modern life'; followed by note 10 (page 64), '*Cycles within Cycles*'.

Of remarkable interest in this context to those with a scientific bent, is the Radio series (just concluded) by well-known astronomers, called *Cosmology Now*. These are printed in *The Listener* from 4th May to 15th June in a series of 7 articles, which have been put in our Library. For us the main point is perhaps the diagram given by Professor Martin Rees (*The Listener*, 8th June, p. 755) which depicts a current idea with which the other speakers more or less agree.

There is now a good deal of evidence that the start of some great cycle in the universe occurred 10,000 million years ago, which started with a great 'fireball' that has since been expanding (and cooling) into galaxies and stars, but which is *still* expanding. It looks as if this cycle would go on until a static stage is reached, after which the universe may start contracting again, and (getting hotter) may end in another fireball, from which a whole new cycle could start and perhaps a different universe emerge (again and again).

Strangely enough this is in agreement with the Shankaracharya's Tradition, and they even give figures (for what they call a 'great age' or Maha-Yuga) which would be about right if the correct time-unit were used (certainly not earth years), more probably a century, which is a 'year' for an average major planet, namely Uranus. For one of his pronouncements see *A Lasting Freedom*, page 83, where His Holiness says in reference to Mr. Ouspensky:

You should not worry about the liberation of such a man, because he seems to have finished his work in this world – in this *revolution of the Cosmos*. He finds a Divine Body and will be in peace until the *creation dissolves in Brahma*.

You have previously been given a simple scale which can contain every measurement in the universe that can be counted – not only time-units, everything. The scale goes from 10^{-27} to 10^{+27} with the human observer at the mid-point (0). 10,000 million years is $10^{17.5}$ seconds, so supposing we were in the first third of that cycle, then 'day and night' for the universe (from fireball to fireball) would come somewhere near the point +18. Thus we have a means of comparing the time-scale of the microcosm (man) with that of the macrocosm (observable universe). See figure on opposite page.

A thousand million centuries ($10^{18.5}$ seconds) is difficult enough for our mind to grasp, so 30,000 of those, for a 'life-time' of the observable universe, is quite inconceivable by us, and the Absolute (Protocosmos) could safely be regarded as existing for ever.

(You will have to check these figures carefully, but this is how the doctrine of Cosmoses seems to me to work out with regard to 'Time' or Duration.)

This current theory makes us want to ask some questions and the only agency one could ask would be the 'Param-Atman that lives in our own soul'. In fact, the reason why I am raising the subject is because it makes *me* want to do just that. Two questions might be:

1. Would there be any sense in supposing that an enormous fireball or hydrogen bomb assembled itself by blind chance, and expanded into the observed universe and contracted again, either once and for all or at regular intervals?
2. Would there not have to be some conscious agency (which one could call Brahma or the Absolute) if only to initiate the process and establish the laws which determine it? If a conscious agency, then there must be a purpose; what is this purpose?

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